

the workable solution that we desperately need. With more than 11 million undocumented immigrants living and working in our country, simply increasing the already harsh penalties for immigration violations and placing a larger burden on employers is an inadequate approach to our immigration crisis.

By not containing a guest worker program, this legislation fails to address the presence of the sizable undocumented community in the United States. It's widely recognized that agribusiness, manufacturing, hospitality and restaurant industries depend on millions of undocumented workers. Without a practical approach to this issue, real reform remains out of reach.

American taxpayers have invested billions of dollars to secure our borders and end illegal immigration, yet the number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. has increased more in the past five years than ever before in our Nation's history.

In order to secure our borders, legalize our workforce, and advance our economy we must develop true comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4437. It is so egregious I do not even know where to begin.

H.R. 4437 does not address the heart of the immigration problem—what to do with those 11 million undocumented people who already reside in this country. This bill is ready, however, to intimidate and criminalize any immigrant who believes in the American Dream and acts on it. H.R. 4437 contains border and law enforcement provisions that give this bill the facade of substance but in reality, this legislation is hollow. It's like having the framework of an army tank, but no engine. Just as an army tank will not work without an engine, America's immigration problem will remain unresolved without addressing a guestworker program.

This legislation only offers a false promise of protection. Real protection would come from identifying those undocumented aliens already residing in this country. Real protection would come from assimilating and welcoming immigrants into our society, as we have done in the 230 years before today. Real protection would not automatically condemn the bus boy at your local favorite restaurant, your house keeper, or farmworkers who ensure you can eat fresh vegetables year round. Creating an "us verses them" attitude will not foster true homeland security.

I urge you to reject H.R. 4437.

Miss MCMORRIS. Mr. Chairman, what has made America great have been the opportunities given to everyone in this country. Since our founding, individuals and families have come to America to seek freedom, opportunity and the choice for a better life.

Everywhere I travel throughout Eastern Washington, I hear from people demanding we do a better job of controlling our borders and reducing illegal immigration. This past year, my office helped with nearly 150 immigration cases. It has become increasingly difficult for those who would like to enter our country legally and choose to obey the law to do so. For example, one family went through a 17-year process before they were allowed to come over legally. We must find a way to have responsive and legal immigration for those who desire to come.

In Congress my priorities include growing our economy and keeping our Nation and

community safe. In my opinion, this includes a comprehensive immigration policy that addresses the growing problems related to illegal immigration but also ensures that our efforts do not unduly hurt our local and national economy.

The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 will bolster our border security, increase interior enforcement efforts, crack down on human trafficking, and reestablish respect for current immigration laws.

While this is an important component, any comprehensive immigration bill must take into account our national and regional economy, which must have the workforce to meet the demands in agriculture and other service industries. Agriculture is the number one industry in Washington State, producing thousands of jobs and over \$1 billion in revenue for Eastern Washington. Our farmers help supply the country with a safe and stable food supply and they must have enough workers.

The agriculture industry in Washington is currently experiencing overall labor shortages. When I visited Crane and Crane Orchards last month in Brewster, I learned that labor shortages are hurting their business. This year alone, over 80,000 boxes worth of apples were left on the trees because they didn't have enough labor; they needed over 300 pickers. They are experiencing labor shortages despite the fact that they pay between 10 to 12 dollars an hour and provide housing to their workers. They couldn't find workers anywhere.

As Congress proceeds with immigration reform, Eastern Washington's agriculture and service related industries need to address the impact of these policy changes on their workforce. We need to keep our economy and workforce competitive in the 21st century by establishing a legal workforce. A comprehensive immigration bill must take into account potential impacts on our workers, their families and the overall economy.

Immigration is a complex problem, with no easy solution or quick fix. Controlling our borders is an important first step, but we cannot stop there. Immigration reform will not be complete until we can adequately resolve the labor needs of our agriculture community. As we continue to update and improve our immigration laws, it is important that we retain our compassionate and welcoming system that defines who we are as Americans.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, obviously our immigration system is broken. Recent reports have revealed that there are approximately 10–12 million illegal immigrants within the United States. Unless we act quickly, this number is estimated to grow by 400,000 each year.

The problem of illegal immigration has legal, economic and national security ramifications.

As Peggy Noonan recently observed in the Wall Street Journal, "what does it mean that your first act on entering a country—your first act on that soil—is the breaking of that country's laws? What does it suggest to you when that country does nothing about your lawbreaking because it cannot, or chooses not to? What does that tell you? Will that make you a better future citizen, or worse? More respecting of the rule of law in your new home, or less?"

We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. The fact of the matter

is that illegal immigration violates our laws, and goes against our Nation's dedication to the rule of law. It is wrong, both legally and morally, and must be stopped.

From an economic perspective, illegal immigrants fill jobs that would otherwise be filled by American citizens or legal residents. Public funds are being used to provide social welfare benefits and services to those here illegally at the expense of the American taxpayer. And our border patrols are using precious resources to track down these scofflaws, when they can be focusing instead on preventing terrorists from entering our country.

And in the aftermath of 9/11, we learned that illegal immigration endangers our national security. It is self-evident that we must secure our borders. Even if it were true that terrorists are not necessarily sneaking over the Mexican or Canadian borders, a proposition which I am certainly not prepared to admit, the fact is that the millions of illegal aliens in our country are creating an overwhelming demand for false identity documents and smuggling networks that could also be used to assist those with less than pure motives.

That's why I have cosponsored this legislation. As it stands now, it contains the reforms needed to remedy these problems. And I hope it will include my amendment to close a loophole in existing immigration law to ensure that criminal and security checks are completely finished before offering immigrants any sort of benefits.

I would also caution against including any sort of language in this legislation providing a green-light to legitimizing the millions of illegal "guest workers" here already.

Mr. Chairman, it is a shame that those of us who support this legislation have been accused of being anti-immigrant or worse, when nothing can be further from the truth. We all understand why foreigners, the vast majority whom are well-meaning and in search of a better life for themselves and their families, would want to come to America. We are the land of opportunity, but as I said before, we are also a nation of laws. Speaking for myself, I know that over the course of my career in Congress, my staff and I have helped hundreds, perhaps thousands of these aspiring Americans become citizens. I am sure that many of the supporters of this bill have done the same.

If we allow illegal immigration to continue on its present course, not only does it hurt our commitment to the rule of law, our economy, and our national security, but it also hurts these legal immigrants. Why should they obey the law and wait their turn? What do they think when they go through the whole process, but then see our government and our employers look the other way with millions of illegal aliens?

This bill will not only uphold the rule of law, protect American tax dollars and enhance our national security, it will also restore a sense of dignity and pride to those immigrants who come here legally.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, a primary duty of our government is to protect and defend our Nation—and that includes controlling our borders.